So...

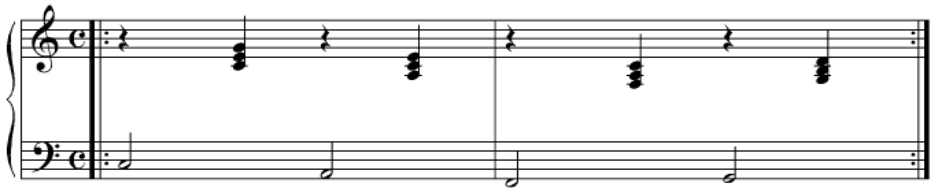
A little bit more
BASIC music notation

Just FOUR pages

and then you'll be ready
to start playing

Basic Musical Notation

So what do all the lines and symbols MEAN?



It's simple...

The **TOP** set of lines (and the spaces between them) represent keys to the RIGHT of middle C on your piano that are often played with the **RIGHT** HAND. (The symbol 𝄞)

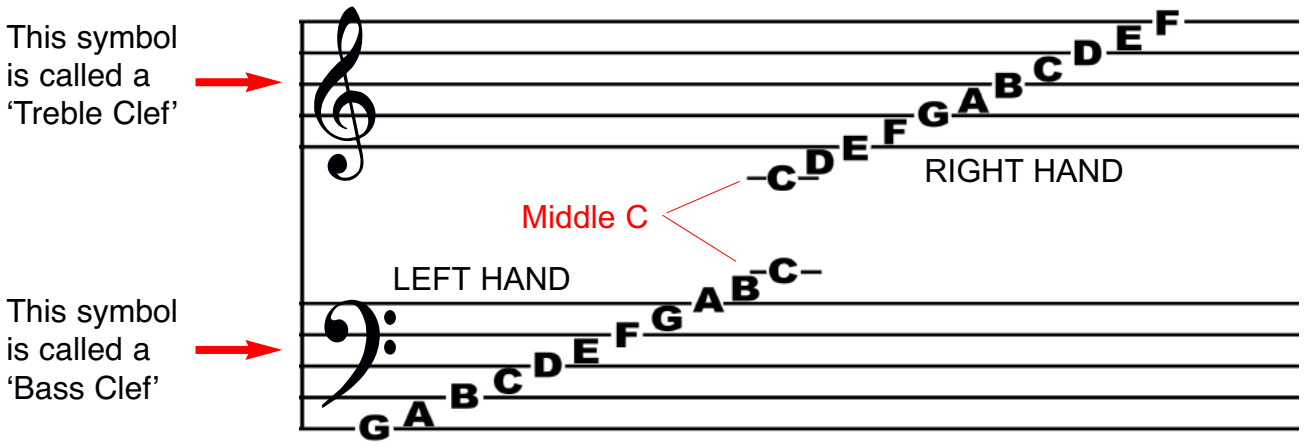
The **BOTTOM** set of lines (and the spaces between them) represent keys to the LEFT of middle C that are often played with your **LEFT** HAND. (The symbol 𝄢)

The two sets of lines are 'split' at MIDDLE C - which is indicated by a separate small line **either** below the Right Hand lines **or** above the Left Hand lines

The two sets of lines (and spaces) are known as 'Staves'

C (Middle)

Or look at it this way


This symbol is called a 'Treble Clef'
C D E F G A B C D E F
RIGHT HAND
Middle C
LEFT HAND
C B A G F E D C B A G
This symbol is called a 'Bass Clef'

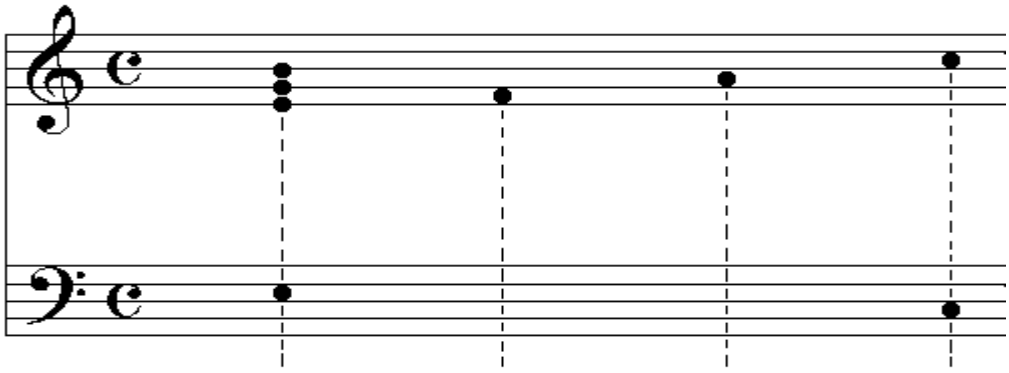
JUST LIKE READING A BOOK

We read music in the same way that we read the sentences of a novel – **from the left of the page to the right.**

Getting back to our ‘dots’ on the Lines and Spaces. As we scan from left to right we play those keys (notes) that the dots on the Lines and Spaces represent.

Should there be SEVERAL dots (notes) in the SAME VERTICAL PLANE we must play these keys SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Read from left to right



Order of play 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

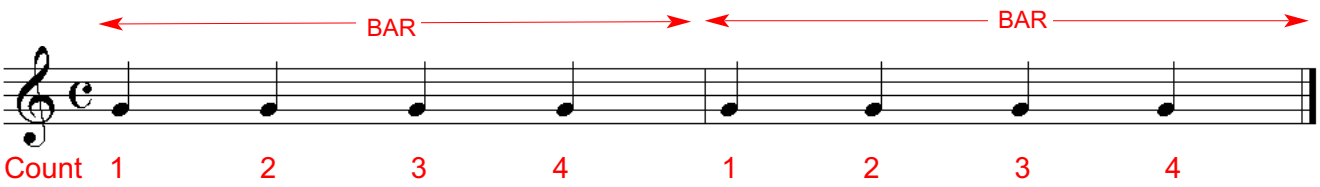
BARS & BEATS

To make music easier to follow it is divided into segments called BARS.
BARS are divided into BEATS.

The most commonly used rhythm is 4 BEATS in EACH BAR.

= 1 BEAT

('Crochet')

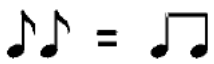


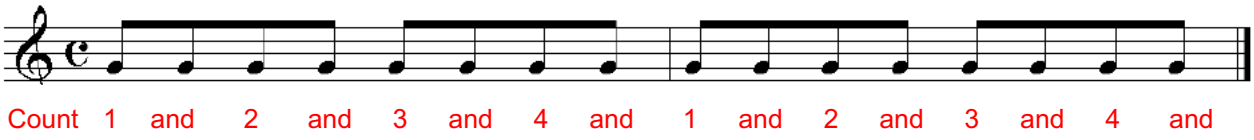
A beat with a 'hook' on it is a HALF BEAT.
You could play up to 8 half beats in each bar.

= 1/2 BEAT

('Quaver')

To make half beats easier to write out, if there are two, three or four in a row they are grouped together by joining the hooks of their tails.



So 8 HALF beats are written:

Notice that half beats are counted with the use of the word 'and' (or the symbol +).
This means we don't have to start counting out too many numbers.

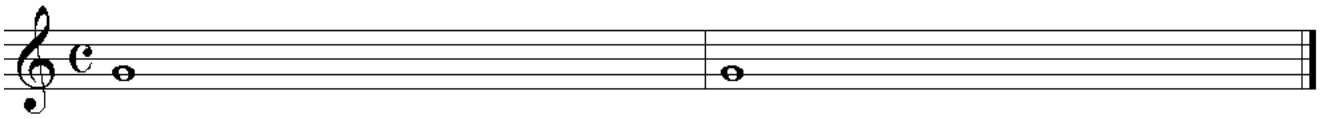
Notes can be HELD for 2 beats (hold each note DOWN for 2 beats) **= 2 BEATS**

('Minim' or 'Half note')

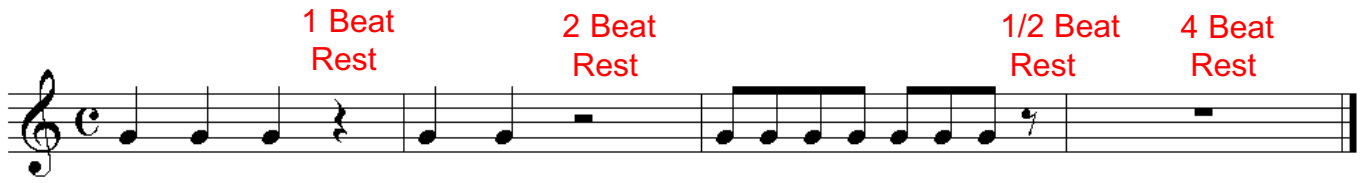
Count (1 2) (3 4) (1 2) (3 4)

Notes can be HELD for 4 beats (hold each note DOWN for 4 beats) **= 4 BEATS**

('Semibreve' or 'Whole note')



Count (1 2 3 4) (1 2 3 4)

Periods of **silence** are shown by symbols called RESTS.

Count 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 (3 4) 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 (+) (1 2 3 4)

MEMORISING THE LINES AND SPACES

I'm sure everyone has heard the phrase "Every Good Boy Deserves Football" and of course this is used to help memorise the lines of the Right Hand staff in musical notation.

This really IS the best way to do it. There is a special 'Note Finder' on the next page which you can print out but it is still best to use your memory.

Here are the usual tricks.. Check this on your NOTE FINDER on the next page

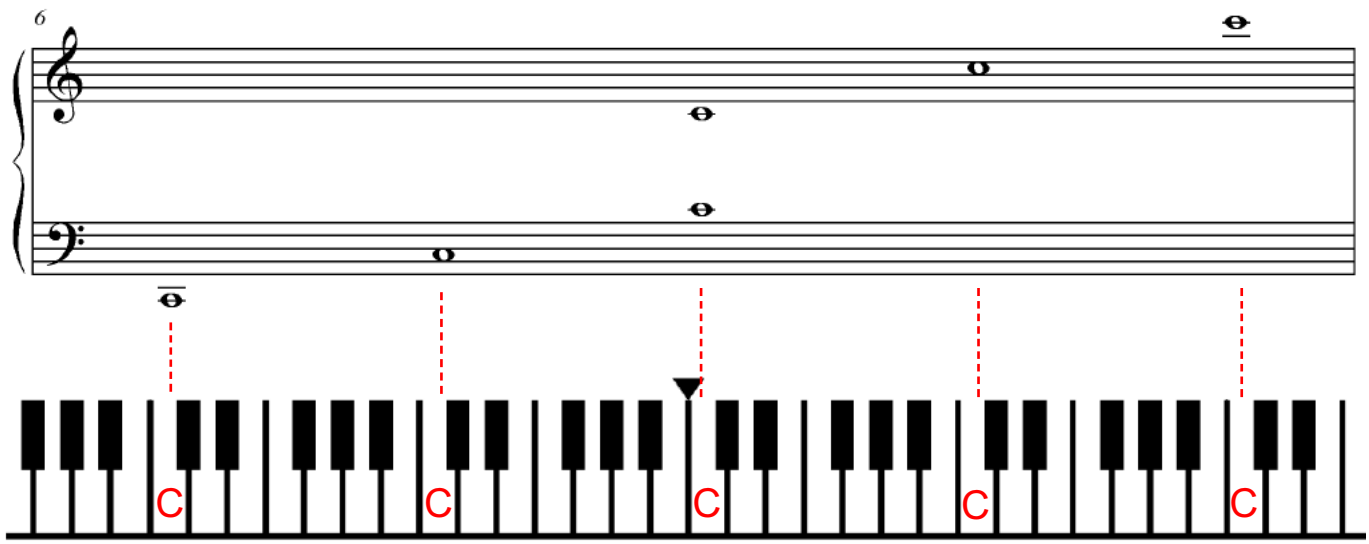
RIGHT HAND LINES	**E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**eserves **F**ootball
RIGHT HAND SPACES	**F A C E**

LEFT HAND LINES	**G**ood **B**oys **D**on't **F**righten **A**nimals
LEFT HAND SPACES	**A C E** **G**arage

Then notice that the Lines and Spaces above and below the Right Hand lines have the same pattern. This is the same for the Left Hand.

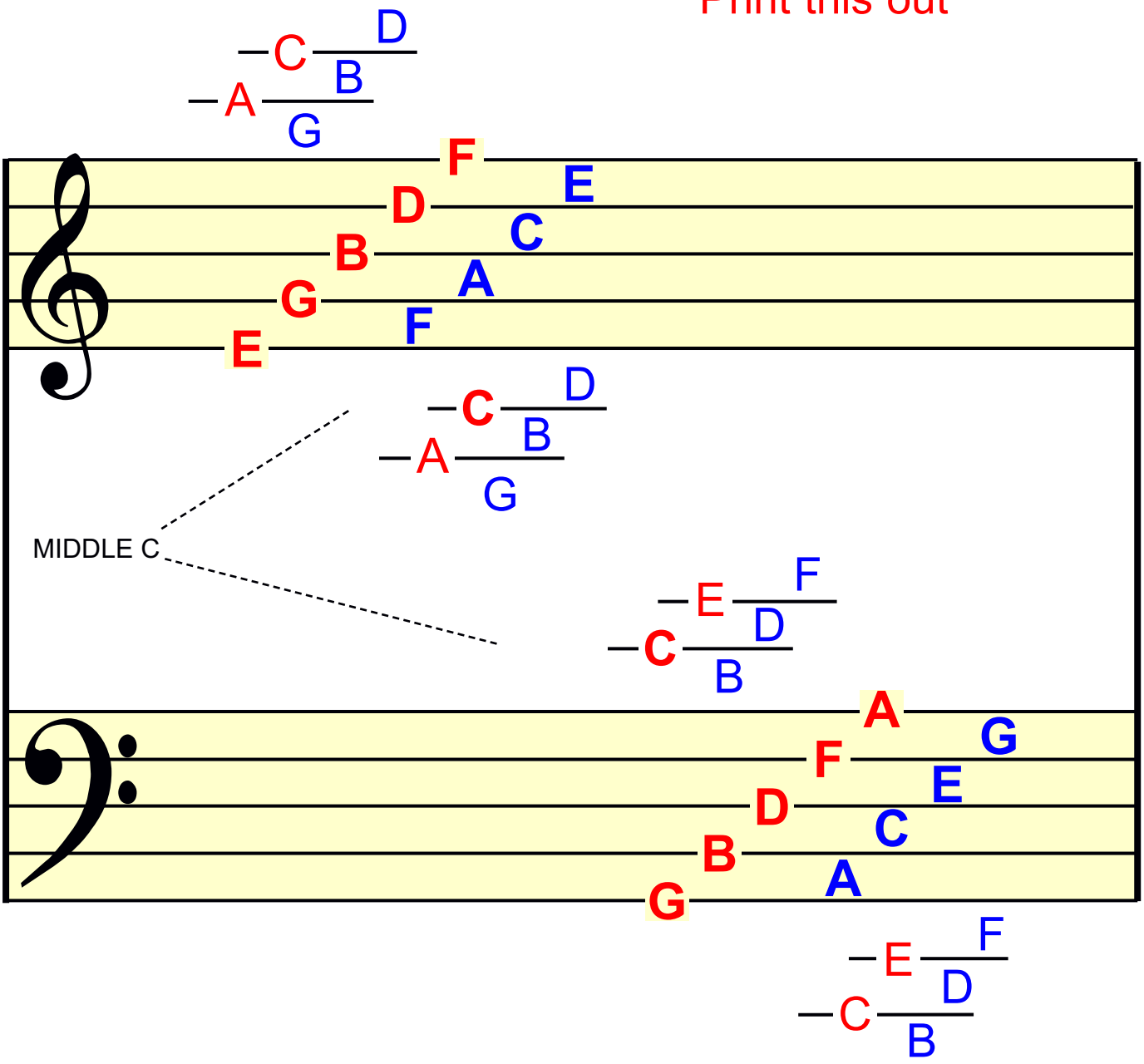
USE ALL THE C NOTES AS ROUGH GUIDES

To begin with, I will write in the names of the notes for you but you STILL have to know WHERE each note is. If you memorise the position of the C notes. this will help you 'get your bearings'.

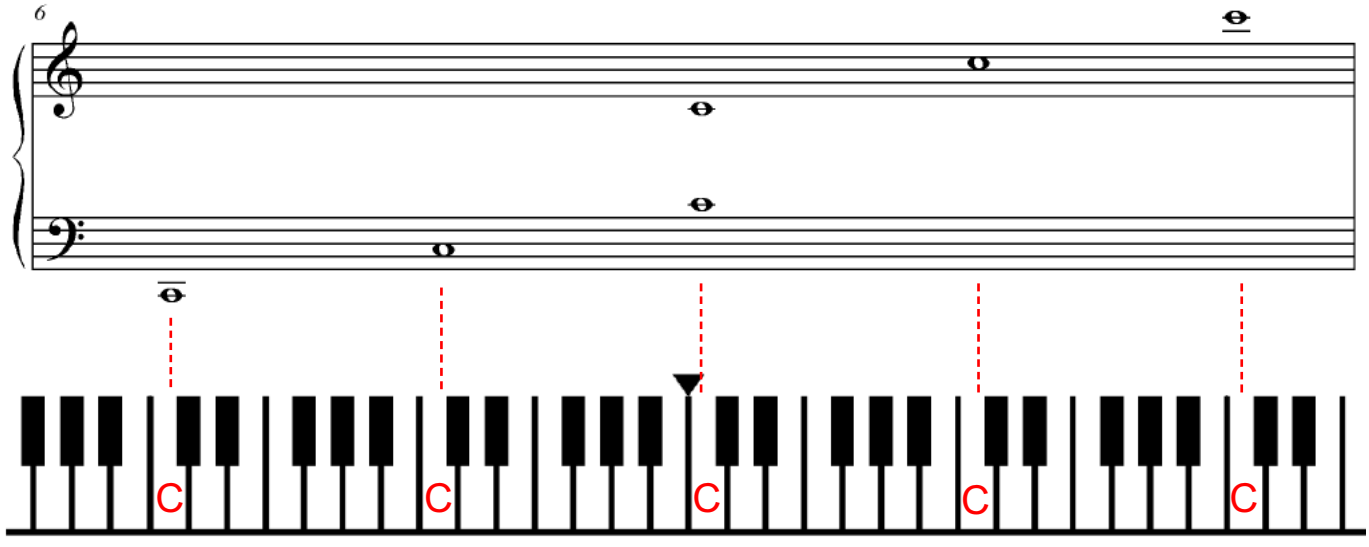


NOTE FINDER

Print this out



The position of the C's



Congratulations

You survived
Basic Musical Notation

It wasn't THAT bad was it..

Now let's learn
some more chords
and start playing some
PIANO!